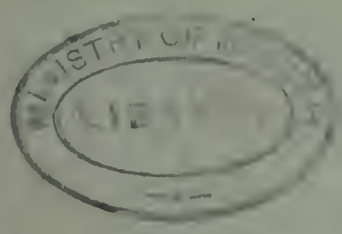
Runcorn [illegible]

Monthly for 1925.



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RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1925.

April, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for 1925 which includes, at the request of the Minister of Health, a survey of the measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the Public Health in the various services under the Health administration.

I wish to thank Officials and others who have given willing co-operation, and must especially mention the Sanitary Inspector, whose assistance in the preparation of the report has been invaluable.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)—1275.

Population, 1921—18476. Estimated 1925—19290

Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

The district is urban and situated on the South Bank of the Estuary of the River Mersey, on ground rising from the river's edge, slightly in directions East and West and towards the South to Runcorn Hill to a height of 256 feet. The town is built on red sandstone, with pockets of boulder clay. The area of the District is 1275 acres including about 100 acres water surface. The prevailing winds are south-west and the rainfall is considerable.

No. of inhabited houses, 1921 ...	3857
„ families or separate occupiers...	4230
Rateable value	£83,434
Sum represented by one penny rate...	£298

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The inhabitants are mainly of the industrial class and employed for the most part in the Chemical and Tanning Trades, some of the works being within the district and others in adjacent portions of the Rural District. There is also a considerable "floating population" engaged on the river and canals and a considerable number of young people, mostly females, are employed at Wire Works and Jam Works, both situate in the Rural area. The conditions of labour are good from a Health point of view.

The amount of Poor Law Relief for the year 1925 was £4418 17s. 10d., and the number of cases receiving gratuitous medical relief, &c., at Dutton Workhouse, from this area was 80. These figures were kindly supplied by the Relieving Officer.

Vital Statistics.

	Males.	Females.
No. of Births—		
Legitimate	185	173
Illegitimate	2	3
Total ...	187	176
No. of deaths (all causes) ...	122	101
No. of deaths of infants under one year of age—		
Legitimate	16	5
Illegitimate	—	1

Birth rate—18.8 per 1,000.

Death rate—11.5 ,,

Infantile mortality—57.8 per 1,000 births.

Comparative Rates.

	Population Est.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality.
1925	19,290	18.8	11.5	57.8
1924	19,270	22.	11.7	77.7
1923	19,010	22.7	11.3	66.8
1922	18,497	22.9	15.1	94.3
1921	18,610	23.4	12.1	94.
1920	18,587	29.8	10.4	63.

No. of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth	2
Deaths from measles (all ages)	3
,, whooping cough (all ages) ...	4
,, diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	1

The causes of the highest mortality were Heart Disease, Cancer and Pneumonia.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, 57.8 is the lowest ever recorded in the District, the nearest being that of 1920, viz.:—63.

The great drop in this rate throughout the country (from about 150) during the last twenty-five years is probably largely attributable to:—

Improved social and hygienic conditions and education, the work of maternity and welfare centres and the substitution to such a large extent of mechanically propelled for horse drawn vehicles, thus reducing so enormously the breeding ground for flies and infection.

The number of deaths from ante-natal causes is too high and we look to the establishment of an ante-natal centre to greatly further improvement in this direction. A representation made to the County Health Authority on this matter received very sympathetic consideration and, there is good reason to hope for the early realisation of this ideal.

Noteworthy Causes of Sickness during the Year.

Influenza was prevalent in March and there were widespread epidemics of Whooping Cough in May and June, and Measles of a mild type in October and November.

Hospitals.

1. *Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.*—At this Institution there were opened in December additions and alterations which have completely evolutionised its accommodation and character. They consisted of:—

(a) A new Hospital block containing 2 wards (one of 8 beds and the other 4) with observation room between and each room fitted with modern bath, lavatory and similar accommodation.

(b) New Laundry electrically equipped.

(c) New Mortuary.

(d) New (double) disinfecting room.

(e) Enlargement and improvement of the Nurse's Home.

The new Hospital block in addition to the already existing accommodation of 8 beds (4 in each of 2 wards) in the old building, provides 20 beds for Isolation in place of the former 8.

All the new buildings and equipment are thoroughly up-to-date and provide a Fever Hospital worthy of any town of this size, and with ample provision for extension if necessary.

Regarding Smallpox there is an arrangement with the Warrington Council for the reception of cases from this area.

Ambulance Facilities.

One for Infectious cases.
„ Non-infectious cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, High Street.
Tuberculosis Dispensary, High Street.

Both are directly under the County Medical Officer's control.

Officers of the Public Health Department.

One Part-time Medical Officer and one whole-time Sanitary Inspector.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Runcorn District Nursing Association (Voluntary), 3 Nurses (General).

Mid-wives practicing in the District—10.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—The water supply consists of Vyrnwy and Runcorn Well water, the latter being constant and chlorinated before being carried to the Reservoir for admixture with the Vyrnwy in the proportion of approximately 50-50. In September last, 1925, a new Reservoir with a capacity of 2 million gallons was opened, and that with the old Reservoir with a capacity of 1 million gallons provides for storage of 3 million gallons which is equivalent to a 3 days' supply. The water is examined from time to time both chemically and bacteriologically by the County Analyst to ensure its safety.

Drainage and Sewerage and Closet Accommodation.

The whole town is supplied with water-carriage with the exception of five cottages, which, but for the shortage of housing accommodation, would be condemned. There are still 211 tipper closets which represent the lowest form of water-carriage, dependent as they are for their efficiency on the degree of cleanliness of the tenants which in its turn determines the amount of waste-water, and they constitute the only unsatisfactory feature in an otherwise very well drained and sewered town.

Most of the sewers empty into one large intercepting sewer which passes under the Manchester Ship Canal at No-Man's Land and discharges into the Mersey Estuary, the remainder go into another syphon which also dips under the canal at the Westerly boundary of the District and discharges similarly into the Mersey Estuary.

Scavenging.—Ashbins are emptied weekly and shop refuse as required. All refuse is disposed of by tipping into old quarries near the Halton Boundary of the Area. Paper, cardboard &c., is burned on the site.

Nine houses in the District are drained into cesspools which are emptied by the householders.

Smoke Abatement.—Local readings of atmospheric impurity are not taken but observations are taken of any chimneys (Works) sending forth smoke of such quality and quantity as to become a nuisance and such action as is possible under existing legislation is taken to remedy the same. Further legislation regarding smoke abatement generally is pending and one can aiso hope that with improved methods of heating the great menace to health in the present polluted atmosphere especially of industrial and congested areas, and due primarily to inefficient, incomplete and wasteful modes of combustion, will be greatly reduced and in the course of time nearly wholly eliminated.

The resulting diminution in chest diseases alone would more than compensate for all efforts in that direction.

Offensive Trades.—Tripe Boiler 1. Rag Stores 3.

During 1924 a written request to all owners of property with ashpits still in use was sent, and this was followed up by interviews asking for the owner's co-operation, in the interests of cleanliness and public health in permanently closing the ashpits and substituting ashbins. The result was most gratifying and indicated the existence of very live health consciences amongst the owners of cottage property. All the ashpits numbering 55 and supplying 100 houses, were closed and sanitary bins voluntarily supplied.

Schools.—The sanitary condition and water supply of all the schools in the area is good.

Health of the Schools etc., directiy under the County Medical Officer's Department.

Housing.—The general Housing conditions with the exception of 178 back to back houses and single houses without through ventilation, are on the whole favourable.

Extent of Shortage of Houses.—Having explored every possible avenue of approach to this question and with the fullest information available and the kindly and willing assistance of all Officials whose work brings them in any way into touch with this problem, including the Rural Authority and Works with Building Schemes, the conclusion come to is that the extent of the shortage of working class houses at the end of 1925 was approximately 100.

During the five year period under review there have been built 166 houses of which number 108 were built by the Council.

Changes in Population.

1911	17,353	(Census)
1921	18,476	„
1924	19,270	(Estimated)
1925	19,290	„

From the above figures it will be seen that there was an increase of 1123 in the intercensal period 1911-1921 an average of 112 per annum. The estimated population for 1924 was 19,270 an estimated increase of 794 in three years. For 1925 the estimated population was 19,290 an increase of 20 for the year, which indicates that it is practically stationary at present and in this connection it should be noted that there has been migration of roughly 70 families into new Council and Works houses built in the adjoining portions of the Rural area for the accommodation of people employed at works in that area. Any further extension of such schemes or fresh schemes in connection with new Works established in the adjoining area (and foundations for one such are being prepared at the present time) would inevitably mean further migration as there are still hundreds who, while living in the area of the Urban Council are employed at works in adjoining areas, and the general experience is that workpeople prefer, if sufficient and suitable accommodation can be got, to live in close proximity to their work.

Overcrowding has been considerable owing to the above-mentioned shortage.

The principal cases of overcrowding notified during the year 1925 were two instances of 14 and one of 15 persons living in a four roomed house. The County Authority through the Maternity Centre has been able to provide accommodation at a lying-in Hospital during the confinement for women from overcrowded houses. This has been an inestimable boon in every way.

General conditions of houses are good.

The defects found to exist include dilapidated ashbins or absence of same, defective roofs, spouts, drains, w.c.'s, gullies, &c.

Most of the defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, whilst acts of waste or neglect by the tenants are also accountable for an appreciable number.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a)	Total	20
(b)	With State assistance	14
	(1) By Local Authority	0
	By other bodies or persons	6

1 Unfit Dwelling Houses—

INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 724

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 ... 271

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous, or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ... —

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 239

2 Remedy of defects without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 55

3 Action under Statutory Powers—

(A) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning Act, 1919.

1 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... —

2 Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit (a) By owners ... ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

3 Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close ... . —

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1 Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 184

2 Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—

(a) By owners ... ... 178 (6 in hand)

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... —

(C) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning etc. Act 1909—

1	Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders ...	—
2	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made ...	—
3	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	—
4	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
5	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—

Action is taken under the Public Health Acts to have defects remedied and we find that there is a spirit of co-operation which should be, and is fostered by us, with the result that it has not been necessary to apply for a Council notice for over two years. At the same time it is frequently found that owners or agents have been aware of defects which they have not dealt with until they have received a Preliminary Notice. In short, few of them are self-starters and in view of the high cost of repairs they certainly have some excuse if we have none.

A reprehensible and extensive practice is the building of sheds in back yards,without any regard for the position or size of same in relation to yard space, instances of a whole yard being almost entirely covered in are sometimes met with and it is very common for the shed to be built as an annex to the kitchen and enclosing the window as well as the door and frequently a gully. On the principle that "what one never had one never misses" it seems advisable to adopt some means, if at all possible, of bringing the illegality of such procedure without the Authority's consent, clearly before the people, as it is much better and easier to prevent or limit such building than to have it removed or reduced after it has been in use for some time with, in many cases, a gas cooker, washing appliances and all the appurtenances of a back kitchen installed.

Household Refuse.—Every effort is made to induce householders to destroy by burning, if possible, all household refuse. We find that it is not practicable to have shop refuse destroyed on the premises on account of its nature and bulk as it constitutes a nuisance. Systematic removal to the refuse tip and destruction there has proved the only satisfactory method of dealing with it.

Milk Supply.—Number of premises registered for the sale of milk inclusive of cowkeepers—19.

Retail purveyors of milk in addition to the above—10.

There are only four cowkeepers in our area, the great bulk of the milk supply being brought from surrounding rural areas which also supply large centres of population in Lancashire as well as Cheshire and consequently the milk is under frequent, or even continuous, chemical and bacteriological examination.

During the year we have had nine samples of milk examined for Tubercle Bacilli and dirt. Results on the whole, satisfactory, but there is much room for improvement in milk production and distribution.

The action taken by us on T.B. being reported in a sample is to notify the Medical Officer of the Area from which it has come for immediate action to be taken i.e. to have the whole milking herd examined and suspected animals dealt with.

Meat.—The locally killed meat is inspected at the Public and one private Slaughter-house and also where exposed for sale. Condemned meat is destroyed by burning.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores and vehicles are enforced.

The management of the Public Slaughter-house is in the hands of the Health Committee.

There is, and has been for many years, only one private slaughter-house.

Other Foods.—The Sanitary condition of bake-houses and other premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale are good. For full particulars see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

There have been no cases of food poisoning in the area.

Sale of Food and Drugs etc.—For work done in the district under the above Act for the year I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the following particulars—

44 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, viz., Arrowroot (2), Butter (3), Camphorated Oil (1), Cheese (2), Ground Ginger (2), Glycerine (1), Gregory's Powder (2), Lard (1), Milk (16), Milk Condensed (2), Pepper (2), Sponge Cakes (6), and Sweets (4).

Only one sample was reported against, this being a sponge cake, which was certified by the Analyst as containing 0.28 per cent of boron preservative expressed as boric acid, this article being probably introduced through the use of preserved liquid eggs. The seller was cautioned and another sample taken shortly afterwards found to be free from preservative. The milks were tested for preservatives, colouring matter and dirt, with negative results.

Prevalence &c. of Infectious Diseases.

For the 5 years 1921 to 1925 inclusive, the following are the numbers of Infectious Diseases notified viz.,

	Cases.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	Nil	—
Diphtheria	141	3
Scarlet Fever	431	6
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	9	1
Puerperal Fever	12	1
Pneumonia	185	74
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	72	43
,, (other forms)	83	23
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	4	2
Opthalmia	21	—
Erysipelas	48	—

There is always available an ample supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin at the Chemists' or it can be got direct from the local laboratory of Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb where it is prepared, as also Anthrax Antitoxin. There was one case of Anthrax in the district, the patient in no way connected with the tanning or other business likely to have caused the infection—various articles of clothing, brushes &c., were examined for bacilli but with negative results. Swabs from suspicious cases receive prompt attention, and what is of great advantage, Anthrax Antitoxin can be administered at once if necessary pending the removal of the patient to hospital. This means that delay in treatment is eliminated.

With regard to Encephalitis Lethargica the difficulty is that there seems to be no institution of any description which admits children suffering from sequelae of this disease which are as a rule so troublesome.

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Case admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	Nil	—	—
Diphtheria	43	33	3
Scarlet Fever	43	31	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	8	—	1
Pneumonia	18	—	16
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	17	—	14
,, (other forms)	15	—	9
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	—	1
Opthalmia	6	—	—
Erysipelas	10	—	—

Tuberculosis.

Form A.	0 to 1		1 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		20 to 25		25 to 35		35 to 45		45 to 55		55 to 65		65 and upwards		Totals	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
(Pulmonary)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	5	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6.11	—17
(Non-Pulmonary)	0	1	0	0	I	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3.12	—15

Form B.	Under 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		Form C.	Poor Law Institutions.		Sanatoria		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M,	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
(Pulmonary)	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	6	9	—15
(Non Pulmonary)	1	0	0	0	1	0	Non- Pulmonary	0	0	3	4	— 7

Opthalmia Neonatorium.

Cases notified	At Home	In Hospital	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Deaths
6	6	0	6	0	0

The death rate from Pneumonia is too high, but in view of the increased accommodation now available at the Isolation Hospital we hope to be able to admit most cases from homes where there are neither room, ventilation nor nursing attention adequate for such cases.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are made at the afore-mentioned laboratory, and during the year ended 31st December, 1925, the following specimens were sent and reported on:—

Swabs, &c. ... 109. Milk ... 9.

These in addition to Swabs examined by the County Authority for Tubercle of which there were 40 during the year.

With regard to Diphtheria patients in the Isolation Hospital, the practice is to require 2 negative swabs before they are discharged.

Vaccination of Children Registered in 1924.

I am indebted to the Vaccination Officer for the following details, viz :—

Successfully vaccinated	...	228
Exemptions obtained	...	145
Dead... ...	...	30
Medically unfit ...	...	20
Left the District...	...	7
		430

From these figures it will be seen that over 56 per cent. of children fit to be vaccinated were exempted "legally" on the ground of conscientious objection." The procedure as carried out is farcical, as obviously the term means an honest objection founded on some knowledge and experience of the process objected to and that should always be respected. That is the guiding principle in only a very small percentage of these cases. An objection born of ignorance and prejudice and fortified by obstinacy is very hard to overcome. The unconvertible cannot be convinced. It is, however, a truism that with efficient vaccination and re-vaccination no one need be a victim of small-pox. The inevitable risks of life are surely sufficient.

School intimations of diseases are noted and during the whooping cough epidemic last summer notices were thrown on the screen of the local cinemas warning against infected children being taken to the entertainments, surgeries and shops. This was done through the courtesy and kindness of the management.

There were 4 deaths attributable to influenza during the year.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

It has not been necessary as yet to take any action under these Regulations.

Tuberculosis Schemes, Venereal Diseases and Maternity and Child Welfare are all administered by the County Health Authority directly.

Much has been done in the way of street-making and the provision of parks and open spaces for playgrounds. These, besides improving the amenities of the district, tend to raise both the health standard and the self-respect of the people.

Runcorn's natural pleasure-ground, the gorse and heather covered Hill with its commanding position and views of water and land and wonderful sunsets, can have few serious rivals in industrial centres.

Gentlemen,

I beg to remain, yours obediently,

JAS. CULLEN, L.R.C.P.S., D.P.H., &c., &c.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Report of Sanitary Inspector.

To Dr. Cullen,

Medical Officer of Health.

I beg to submit a report of the work done in the Sanitary Department during the year ended 31st December, 1925.

General Inspections	1755
Nuisances discovered	460
Notices issued—Preliminary ...	273
,, Council... ...	
Dampness	2
Roofs defective	22
Yard drains	35
Defective W.C.s'	10
,, Tippers	5
,, Sinks and Waste Water ...	3
Accumulations—Manure ...	4
,, Rubbish ...	5
Ashboxes	130
Filthy houses	2
Defective spouts	34
Dirty W.C.	1
Defective floors	8
Dirty walls	4
Defective yard surface	24
Poor water supply	56
Defective window fitting ...	18
Lack of through circulation of air ...	2
Offensive smells	2
Dry rot	3
Dirty yards	4
Defective wall plaster	9
Smoky houses	5
W.C. cistern out of order ...	25
Leaky water pipes	4
Stagnant water in cellars ...	2
Insufficient air space	6
Defective outside structures ...	17
,, ceilings	3
,, earth closets	2
,, sink pipes	2
,, doors	5
,, gullies	3
,, air shafts	3

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

There are 4 cowkeepers on the register and 29 persons registered as retail purveyors of milk.

The supervision of these has been regular and the bye-laws in respect thereto have been conformed with.

Slaughter House.—There are two slaughter houses on the register: one is a public slaughter house and the other private. Both are regularly inspected.

Lodging Houses.—There are five common lodging houses which are regularly supervised. Maximum number of lodgers:—

23, 8, 7, 6 and 11 respectively.

Disinfections.— 124 disinfections have been carried out during the year.

123 houses. 1 Picture Palace.

The following have been removed and destroyed—

32 Old Mattresses and bedding.
2 Suits of Clothing.
1 Carcase of a Dog.
2 Carcases of Pigs.

FACTORY and WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Notices	Prosecutions
Factories	32	39	3	0
Workshops	48	68	9	0
Total	80	107	12	Nil

Defects.

	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	5	5
Defective Roof of Workshop ...	1	1
Defective W.C's.	2	2
Want of drainage of floors ...	3	3
Unsuitable Sanitary accommodation	1	1

Number of outworkers lists ...	1 Contractors 3
,, ,, defects notified by H.M, Inspector	Nil
,, ,, underground bakehouse in use ...	1

General Remarks.

The following analysis gives the details of industries:—

Dressmaking ...	4	Millinery	4
Builders	10	Baking	15
Tailoring... ...	3	Alum	1
Laundries ...	3	Tanning	3
Boat Building ...	6	Chemicals ...	2
Masons	1	Laboratories ...	1
Cabinet making ...	4	Boot repairing ...	6
Sail Making ...	2	Engineering ...	4
Brick making ...	1	Printing	3
Beer bottling ...	1	Extracts process	1
Blacksmiths ...	2	Vulcanizing ...	1
Tinsmiths ...	2		

The Register has been kept as per instructions.

List of outworkers.—Particulars have been forwarded to the Authority concerned.

JONATHAN T. SHAW,
Sanitary Inspector.

Petroleum Acts—Storage Licences.

There are 20 License Holders for the storage of Petroleum and 7 for Carbide of Calcium.

	Gallons.
Total storage capacity for petrol (in tanks) is	6,700
,, ,, ,, (in tins) is	3,356
	10,056

	Tons.	Cwts.
Total storage capacity for Carbide of Calcium	3	18

The premises and tanks have been regularly inspected and found to be quite in order and suitable for the purpose.

Canal Boat Acts, 1877 to 1884.

Report as to the execution of the Canal Boats Acts, 1877 and 1884, and of the observation of the regulations thereunder for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

Total number of boats registered at Runcorn is 1,142 of which 607 are still in commission.

One (new) boat has been registered during the year.

Four hundred and thirty-nine inspections were made during the year, being an increase of eight on the previous year.

Twenty boats with twenty-five contraventions of the Acts and Regulations have been reported, particulars as follows :—

One boat without certificate of registration on board.

Two boats with cabins requiring re-painting.

One boat with cabin over-crowded.

Five boats with decks leaking over cabins.

One boat with registered number defaced and illegible.

Six boats with water vessels out of repair.

Two boats with certificates in a dilapidated condition.

One boat with defective scuttle-top.

Two boats with defective stove-pipes.

One boat with defective lockers.

Three boats with cabins in a dirty and insanitary condition.

The matters complained of have been remedied with the exception of one boat which is now at the dockyard undergoing the necessary repairs. No legal proceedings have been taken during the year.

One case of infectious disease (pneumonia) has been notified as having occurred on board a canal boat.

The four hundred and thirty-nine boats inspected were registered to accommodate one thousand, one hundred and twenty-two adult persons, and one thousand and ninety-eight children and the number found on board were :

Six hundred and four men, two hundred and sixty-six women and two hundred and eighty-three children, being an increase of thirty-one men and a decrease of twenty women and fourteen children as compared with the previous year when four hundred and thirty-one inspections were made.

Ages	1,	2,	3,	4,	5,	6,	7,	8,	9,	10,	11,	12,	13
Nos.	28,	29,	41,	42,	23,	14,	10,	13,	13,	13,	20,	7,	8

	261
Babies ...	22
	283

JONATHAN T. SHAW,

Canal Boat Inspector.

1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT.

	CAUSES OF DEATH. (CIVILIANS ONLY.)	Males.	Females.
	ALL CAUSES	122	101
1	Enteric Fever..	—	—
2	Small-Pox	—	—
3	Measles	3	—
4	Scarlet Fever	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	3	1
6	Diphtheria	1	2
7	Influenza	4	—
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory system ..	6	8
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	6
12	Cancer, malignant Disease	13	11
13	Rheumatic Fever	1	2
14	Diabetes	—	2
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	7	9
16	Heart disease	20	17
17	Arterio-sclerosis	9	6
18	Bronchitis	4	6
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	10	6
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	1	1
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	—	1
23	Appendicitis & Typhlitis	—	—
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	2
26	Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	—	1
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	8	1
29	Suicide	—	1
30	Other Deaths from violence	5	4
31	Other defined diseases	18	11
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	1
	Special Causes (included above)		
	Poliomyelitis	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	—	—
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Total	16	5
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Illegitimate	—	1
	TOTAL BIRTHS	187	176
	Legitimate	185	173
	Illegitimate	2	3
	POPULATION	19290	

1925.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE & ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924.

The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 Year	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales	18·3	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0·07	0·32	0·47	8·4	75	92·1	6·9	1·0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18·8	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0·30	0·43	10·8	79	92·1	7·3	0·6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000).	18·3	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·14	0·06	0·31	0·38	7·6	74	93·0	5·9	1·1
London	18·0	11·7	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0·23	0·46	10·6	67	91·1	8·9	0·0
Runcorn Urban District	18·8	11·5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	57·8	.	.	.

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